LEATHERHEAD URBAN DISTRICT.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1898.

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Prepared in accordance with Sec. 14 of the order of the Local Government Board, dated 23rd March, 1891, Regulating the Duties of Medical Officers of Health.

Leatherhead :

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LEATHERHEAD URBAN DISTRICT.

AREA, 3541 ACRES.

POPULATION { At Census, 1881 ... ... 3533.
At Census, 1891 ... ... 4305.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health, with regard to the Year, 1898.

I.—Vital Statistics: Births and Deaths.

1. Assuming that it has increased at the same rate since the census 1891 as it did during the preceding decade, the POPULATION of the district, in the middle of the year, may be estimated at 4900 persons.

2. The number of BIRTHS registered in the district during the year was 113, (as against 101 in the previous year), which represents a BIRTH-RATE of 23·1 per 1000 of the estimated population. (See also Table A. at the end of the report.)

3. The number of DEATHS registered in the district during the year was 59, (as against 41 in the previous year), to which must be added two deaths in the Epsom Workhouse, in the Joint Isolation Hospital, or in the County Asylum, of persons belonging to the district. Deducting one death in the Cottage Hospital, of a person who did not belong to the district, there remain 60 deaths, which represents an ANNUAL DEATH-RATE of 12·2 per 1000 of the estimated population.

4. As to the INFANT MORTALITY. The deaths, during the year, of INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR, were eighteen in number, as against nine in the previous year, and were at the high rate of 160 per 1000 births registered.

5. The deaths from PULMONARY CONSUMPTION (6 in number), were at the rate of about 1·2 per 1000 of the population.

6. The deaths from OTHER LUNG DISEASES (pleurisy, pneumonia and bronchitis), were 6 in number, and were at the rate of 1·2 per 1000 of the population. (See also Table A. at end of report.)

II.—Summary of Sickness and Mortality, during the year, from the seven Principal Zymotic Diseases, and from certain other diseases which have to be notified under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, and of the Action taken for preventing their spread.

1.—SMALL POX.—No case of this disease was reported.

2.—WHOOPING COUGH caused one death.

3.—MEASLES caused no death.

4.—Of SCARLET FEVER (otherwise called SCARLATINA), four cases were notified in four houses, viz: In January, at one on the road to Oxshot; in March, at two on the Fairfield; and in June, at a third on the Fairfield. Three of the patients were removed to the Joint Isolation Hospital. None of the illnesses ended fatally.

5.—Of Diphtheria, there was one case in September, at a house in Church Street.

6.—Enteric, (otherwise called Typhoid) Fever. In February, a child, living in Bridge Street, was found to be suffering from this disease, and was removed to the Leatherhead Cottage Hospital.

In October, a child, living in Mole Cottages, off Bridge Street, was certified to be suffering from this fever, and was removed to the Cottage Hospital.

No other cases were heard of. (See also Table B. at the end of the report.)

7.—Diarrhœa caused five deaths, all of which were among young children.

The total Deaths from these seven Zymotic Diseases were 6 (viz: One from Whooping Cough and five from Diarrhœa), and were at the *rate* of 1·2 per 1000 of the population.

As regards the other Infectious Diseases to which the above-mentioned Act applies:—

Of Erysipelas, one case was notified in July, at a house in Randall's Lane.

Of Puerperal Fever, no case was notified.

Of Membranous Croup, one case was notified in March, at a Cottage near Woodbridge.

Of Continued Fever, no case was notified.

The following further *action* was taken for preventing the spread of some of these diseases:—The houses infected with Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, or Enteric Fever, were visited and were supplied, in most instances, with disinfectants for daily use during illness; isolation of the sick was inculcated and was assisted by the removal of three to the Isolation Hospital; a sanitary inspection of the premises was made and all nuisances and defects, that were discovered, were remedied as far as was practicable; the well-water, when suspected, was analysed; and, after the recovery or removal of the sick, the infected rooms and their contents were cleansed and disinfected, in most instances after service of notice by the Inspector. Infected articles were removed from the houses of the poor, and were disinfected at the expense of the District Council, or were destroyed and compensation was given.

TABLE, showing the number of persons admitted into the Joint Isolation Hospital, during the year, from the several districts forming the United District.

Disease.	Sutton Urban District.	Carshalton Urban District.	Epsom Rural District.	Leatherhead Urban District.	Total.
Scarlet Fever	50	30	19	3	102
Diphtheria	53	3	12		68
Enteric Fever	2	3			5

III.—Summary of other proceedings which were taken during the year under the Sanitary Acts, &c.

1.—As to the Byelaws relating to New Buildings.—The following figures have been furnished me by the Surveyors who were then in office:

	In 1884	In 1885	In 1886	In 1887	In 1888	In 1889	In 1890	In 1891	In 1892	In 1893	In 1894	In 1895	In 1896	In 1897	In 1898
Number of new buildings for which plans were submitted for approval under the Byelaws	22	10	5	8	10	7	6	4	6	10	No return	17	23	30	45
Number of times that legal proceedings were taken for breach of the Byelaws	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none		none	none	none	none

2.—The District Council undertook the Removal of House Refuse, as in previous years, by their own staff of men.

3.—The District Council, themselves, undertook, instead of contracting for, the weekly Cleansing of Tub Closets, of which there are about 450 in use in the district. The Tubs were taken in covered vans to the depôt, in a field near Barnett Wood Lane, and, after they had been emptied and cleansed, a given quantity of Acidulated Peat Moss was put into each tub (as is practised at Congleton), to prepare them for further use. This was found to have a marked effect in deodorising the excreta while the tubs were in use at the closets.

4.—As to the proposed Works of Sewerage and Sewage-Disposal. Early in the year the sum which the District Council were to pay for the purchase of the 12½ acres of land which had been selected by their Engineer for the disposal of the sewage of the District, was settled by arbitration, but a good deal of time was then spent in discussing the terms upon which the Council would undertake the disposal of the sewage of the adjoining parish of Ashtead (in the Epsom Rural District), which was about to be provided with sewers. After these had been agreed upon, the Council applied to the Local Government board to sanction a loan of £30,000 for the purchase of the land and for the execution of the necessary works of sewerage and sewage-disposal, and on December 30th the Board caused an Enquiry to be held at Leatherhead into the matter of this application and also of an application from the Epsom Rural District Council for sanction to borrow £13,000 for the provision of sewers in Ashtead and for their share of the cost of the Leatherhead outfall sewer and sewage outfall works.

5.—As to Nuisances. The Sanitary Inspector's statement of the nuisances which were discovered (some of them in the course of a house-to-house inspection by Dr. Williamson, Deputy M.O.H. and myself) and which were dealt with during the year, is given on page 6. Among other matters which engaged special attention were (a.) An encampment of gypsies and other dwellers in caravans in a field near Leatherhead Common; (b.) the question (on which Counsel's opinion was taken) of dealing with cesspools, the contents of which were soaking from them into the chalk and were likely to pollute the water in some of the wells in the district.

6.—As to Water Supply. Seven samples of water, which were sent me from wells in the district, were examined, with the result shewn in the following table.

When the Samples were sent. 1898.	Source of the Samples.	The Water was found to be	Action taken.
April 28	Draw-well, Epsom Road	Very impure	Water taken from the Company
April 28	Draw-well, Magazine Road	Very impure	ditto
April 28	Draw-well, on the Fairfield	Very turbid	ditto
May 13	Draw-well, Bridge Street	Very impure	ditto
Aug. 19	Draw-well, High Street	Very impure	ditto
Sept. 3	Pump, Church Street	Very impure	ditto
Nov. 1	Dip-well, Bridge Street	Of doubtful purity	ditto

Reports on samples of water from the Leatherhead Water Works, which were submitted by the Company to a chemical and bacterioscopic examination, were satisfactory.

7.—The Inspector informs me that the Slaughter-Houses and the premises of the registered Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk were regularly inspected, during the year.

E. L. JACOB.

17, Spencer Park,
Wandsworth Common, S.W.
January, 1899.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

For the Year ending December 31st, 1898.

Number of Complaints received in writing	none
Number of Premises inspected under Section 92 of the Public Health Act, 1875 ...	322
Number of Nuisances discovered	70
Ditto remedied without being reported	70
Ditto reported to the Sanitary Authority	0
Ditto remedied after report	0
Number of Notices served for the Abatement of Nuisances, under Section 94	37

Particulars of work done by owners or occupiers, for the abatement of Nuisances, in compliance with notice :—

Number of privies, cesspools, ditches, pools, watercourses, urinals, ashpits, and drains, *cleansed*, and number of deposits *removed*	49
Number of old privies re-constructed, as water-closets	0
Number of old privies re-constructed, with small watertight vaults or with pails	0
Number of Premises at which the drains were re-constructed, ventilated, trapped or disconnected from the house-pipes or rain-water pipes	0
Number of Premises at which new drains or cesspools were provided under Sec. 23 or Sec. 95 ...	0
Number of Premises from which animals, improperly kept, were removed	0
Number of Houses which were provided with efficient ventilation	0
Number of Houses at which injurious overcrowding was abated	0
Number of damp unwholesome Houses which were repaired	2
Number of filthy Houses which were cleansed and limewashed	9
Legal proceedings taken, under Sec. 96, for abatement of nuisances (number of times) ...	0
Houses condemned by the Justices as unfit for human habitation under Section 97	0

Number of Samples of Water sent to the Medical Officer of Health for Analysis	6
„ Wells permanently or temporarily closed, after notice, under Section 70 of the Public Health Act, 1875, as unfit for drinking or domestic purposes...	0
„ Houses to which water was supplied by owners of premises after notice under Section 62 of that Act	10

APPENDIX.

TABLE A.

TABLE OF DEATHS in the District during the year 1898, classified according to DISEASES and AGES; and shewing also the POPULATION of the District and the BIRTHS therein during the year.

Population at all ages.		Registered Births.	Mortality from all causes at subjoined ages.							Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Persons under 5 years of age.																		
														Fevers.														
At Census 1891.	At middle of 1898.		At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.		Small Pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup	Typhus.	Enteric or Typh'd.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhœa & Dysentry	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Total.
										Under 5													1	5		2	2		1	13	24
4305	4850	101	59	18	6	1	1	15	18	5 upwards															4	4	5	2	20	35

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account, in judging of the mortality of the District.

Deaths occurring outside the District among persons belonging thereto.	2						2	Under 5																							
								5 upwards.																						2	2

Table B.—Shewing the number of houses invaded, and of persons attacked in the district, (exclusive of Public Institutions) by the undermentioned Zymotic Diseases, in each month of the year, 1898, and in the eight preceding years.

MONTHS.	Small Pox.			Scarlet Fever.			Diphtheria.			Typhoid Fever.			Continued Fever.		Membranous Croup.		Erysipelas.		Puerperal Fever
	Cases.	Houses Invaded.	Removed to Hospital.	Cases.	Houses Invaded.	Removed to Hospital.	Cases.	Houses Invaded.	Removed to Hospital.	Cases.	Houses Invaded.	Removed to Hospital.	Cases.	Houses Invaded.	Cases.	Houses Invaded.	Cases.	Houses Invaded.	Cases.
January				1	1														
February										1	1								
March				2	2	2									1	1			
April																			
May																			
June				1	1	1													
July																	1	1	
August																			
September							1	1											
October										1	1								
November																			
December																			
Total in 1898.				4	4	3	1	1		2	2				1	1	1	1	
Total in 1897.				42	26	34	6	5	4	3	3								
Total in 1896.				19	14	12	12	10	3	3	3								
Total in 1895.				3	3	2	9	6									2	2	
Total in 1894.				1	1		3	3		3	2						3	3	
Total in 1893.				8	6	4	4	3	2	3	2				1	1			
Total in 1892.				30	19	7	6	5							3	3	2	2	
Total in 1891.				1	1		7	4	4								1	1	
Total in 1890.							2	2		1	1								

NOTE.—The Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, has been in force in the parish since 1890.